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*The Washington Angle*

## Two U.S. Officials Stub Toes on Suez Squabble

By DAVID BARNETT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (NANA)—Some big toes in the American government have been stubbed on the Suez crisis. But most of the pain has been registered back stage.

One victim, who has pretty much recovered, is the chief Arab operator of the diplomatic section of the Central Intelligence Agency. He was reprimanded and ~~called back~~ to Washington. But he now has been rehabilitated and has returned to duty in an Arab country—not Egypt.

The other victim is in a longer period of irritation, ending perhaps in a separation from government service. He is Undersecretary of State Herbert Hoover Jr.

The CIA agent got into trouble by stepping into something he should have left to the State Department. He is the official to whom Egyptian President Nasser referred in his speech last June when he said "an American official contacted me and sought a special interview."

According to the Nasser speech the "official" told him Assistant Secretary of State George Allen was en route to Cairo with a strong note from the U. S. government, but guaranteed that "no practical outcome would emanate from this message."

Actually, Nasser's version appears to have been a distortion. The CIA agent ~~was~~ disturbed about press reports that Allen was bringing an "ultimatum" and merely wished to assure Nasser that the ~~message~~ was not that strong. At ~~any~~ rate he should have stepped ~~out~~ of the picture.

Hoover's trouble is ~~not~~ subtle. State Department ~~officials~~ say he has presented to ~~the~~ Arab representatives a ~~point~~ of view that is not the official U. S. view on Suez.

Apparently Hoover ~~is~~ in the Suez trouble. ~~At~~ another Tehran crisis. ~~And~~ ~~the~~ ~~U. S.~~ ~~is~~ to make concessions ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~U. S.~~ to keep Middle East oil ~~flowing~~. In the Iranian crisis, Hoover ~~did~~ a magnificent job of ~~negotiating~~ settlement among ~~the~~ ~~Iranians~~ and ~~the~~ ~~U. S.~~

But the Suez case is big-time stuff compared to the seizure of the British refinery at Abadan by Premier Mohammed Mossadegh. And Nasser has more basic strength, if less fanaticism, than the aged Mossadegh.

At any rate, diplomatic informants contend Hoover seems to be heading for a slow-motion departure. This view ties in with another report that the administration has picked out for Gov. Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts. If President Eisenhower is re-elected, Herter could replace Hoover as undersecretary.

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